

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
September 1, 2009
Conference Call

Present: Joe Thomas, President
Jim Holder
Juan Reyes
Shawn Sims
John Hansen
Dalin Winters
Bryan Brost
Jim Price Jr.
Patrick Zimmerer
Jason Fearneyhough

Absent: Jim Bennage, Vice President
Bridget Kukowski
Frank Galey
Ryan Lance

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Leanne Stevenson
Chris Wichmann
Julie Cook

Guests: Cindy Garretson-Weibel

Minutes

Juan Reyes made a motion to approve the August 14, 2009 minutes. The motion was seconded by Dalin Winters. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Wind Energy

Juan was hoping the Board could have a wind energy discussion to better understand the implications and benefits of this development in the State. He was also hoping they could develop a policy from the discussion. He had spoken with Aaron Clark, the Governor's Energy Advisor and he is willing to come to the October meeting and give a 30 minute presentation similar to the one recently held by the Governor's office. He asked Chris Wichmann to give some background on the current production. He said there are currently 63 proposals on public lands, with 45 in the Rawlins District. Another 20 are on private lands, with about 8 million acres of wind farms in the State. The Governor's Symposium stands not to support the east-west transmission line, but does support the Colorado line. Conservation easements are being sought for sage grouse protection. Juan feels transmission lines on private property that doesn't have any wind turbines. A new alternative is to go south and the east. Jim Price said they are surveying a 2-mile corridor on private property. Jim Price feels they are taking the land now while they can. Juan said if the members develop a policy, he would like to have it say the need to protect private property rights. Chris Wichmann feels the board needs to separate wind energy

development and transmission lines in their policy. Chris said wind has the potential to list the sage grouse.

The board agreed to have a half-day discussion at the October meeting on wind development. They would like to have State Lands, BLM, Pacific Corp and Aaron Clark come to the meeting. Jim Price said the private landowners are seeing the largest impact, as the companies don't want to deal with BLM.

Game & Fish Meeting

Everyone has reviewed the white papers on the issues to be discussed at the next meeting in Casper and alright with them. Joe said we should add win on the sensitive species discussion. Steve Ferrell has asked to have some time to talk about invasive aquatics. Jason and Steve will keep both sides on track and we won't have a moderator this year. We also won't have staff reading the papers, which will leave room on the agenda for some brainstorming.

State Fair Advisory Board Joint Meeting

Some of the items to be on the agenda include the rules of entry to the park and the exceptions to those rules, an Animal Care Committee update, and the function of the Advisory Committee. They also would like to prepare some guideline for the attendance of new committee members. Jim Price suggested the Board of Agriculture members be on the board for one year before appointing their SFAC member. Juan would like to see a copy of the policies for gate admission. Jason will get this to him.

Issues

Cindy Garretson-Weibel said the Business Council is meeting in Kemmerer on Thursday of this week to discuss grants and stimulus money. She indicated there is not a lot of money set aside for agriculture. Their next meeting will be in December in Cheyenne.

The board agreed they would rather have their meeting in October in Douglas. Joe and Jason will work on the agenda following the Joint Game & Fish meeting later this month.

Jason said the Food Safety Act – food and feed has passed the house and the senate has a sister bill. He also said a request for a hearing on the cottage food rules has been requested and is set for September 16 in the Cheyenne office.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Thomas, President

Date